

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda

The December 14, 2017 meeting of the State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by President Dennis L. Loftus. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Dennis Loftus, President; Nina Lou Bunting, Vice President; Barbara Rutt; Hon. Liane M. Sorenson, and Dr. Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Dr. Susan S. Bunting was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board, and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson was also present. Board member G. Patrick Heffernan joined the meeting at 5:20p.m.

The Board's Agenda was posted on December 6 and amended December 12 to reflect changes to the items as acted on by the Professional Standards Board (PSB) at its meeting. The PSB tabled action on regulations 1507 and 1511; as a result these two regulations were requested to be removed from the agenda. A motion was made by Mrs. Liane Sorenson and seconded by Mrs. Nina Lou Bunting to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The minutes of the State Board's regular meeting of November 16, 2017 were approved as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Sorenson and seconded by Dr. Terry Whittaker. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports from State Board Members, Update from Executive Director, Update on Literacy Campaign, Secretary Regulations

Mrs. Sorenson reported that she had attended a meeting of the Vision Coalition, a board she serves on as the representative of the Board, and participated in a professional development workshop hosted by the Delaware School Boards Association. The workshop participants discussed the newly developed statewide strategic plan for special education.

Mrs. Rutt reported that as the Board's representative on the DSBA legislative committee, she had received information regarding a potential piece of legislation that could involve the State Board in decisions related to removal of local board members. She commented that while this had not been a topic for discussion, she thought there might be a more independent entity, such as the Public Integrity Commission, whose role may be more aligned with such action that could be considered if this proposal were to move forward. She will keep the Board abreast of other discussions as they develop with the committee.

Mrs. Bunting also attended the DSBA workshop with Mrs. Sorenson and commented on the impressive presentation by Michele Marinucci about the special education strategic plan. Additionally, she discussed her participation at the State Board's workshop on the redesign of school report cards, which was held on December 6. She commended the presentation made by the Board's executive director and the information shared from national experts.

Dr. Loftus represented the Board at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) partnership meeting held in conjunction with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) in Atlanta, Georgia. While at this meeting, he reported on the fine work of the CTE office and other partners throughout Delaware through the states Pathways to Prosperity initiative. Dr. Loftus attended a meeting between the NCC schools and business partners at which they reviewed the overview of new construction plans in the Appoquinimink school district and discussed legislative priorities that were shared between

the business leaders and NCC district superintendents. Lastly, he reported on his participation at the University of Delaware's Board of Trustees meeting, where he serves on the board in his role as State Board of Education President, as required by statute. He has found this experience and opportunity to be uplifting and energizing due to the exciting things in development at the University.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the SBE workshop on the redesign of school report cards under ESSA, which was held on December 6. She highlighted the availability of all resources and materials from the workshop posted on the Board's website. She also presented an overview of her attendance at the Foundation for Excellent Education's National Summit on Education Reform. Her report included discussion of the sessions attended and provided links to the presentations and materials. She highlighted the sessions that discussed Early Learning and Literacy, Building the Educator Pipeline, and social emotional learning programs. Additionally, she shared information about her attendance at the Governor's Roundtable on Work-Based Learning and a review of several of the articles and studies linked throughout the posted report called "News Updates and Information." This monthly report includes local and national articles related to education issues, which are provided for the Board and public to review.

Secretary Bunting provided a comprehensive report to the Board, which included details about several opportunities to engage with members of the business community at the state and national level, the continuation of school visits, and meetings with school leaders, educators, and students in which she had been involved throughout the month. These visits included meeting with the Governor's ESSA Advisory Committee, the Family Services Council, and the School District Consolidation Task Force. She also was very involved in events related to the state's Pathways to Prosperity Initiative. She participated on a panel at the American Youth Policy Forum, toured several Pathways classrooms at William Penn HS, and joined the Governor in convening a panel of Delaware's education and business leaders at the "Work-Based Learning Roundtable." She updated the Board on high level details of the FY19 DOE budget, which include increases based on enrollment/unit growth and related allocations, funding for early childhood tiered reimbursement, and public school transportation. Additionally the Department requested \$3 million for Opportunity grants, \$1 million for middle school math coaches, \$11 million for public education salary steps and paraprofessional compensation enhancements, and \$9.8 million to cover personnel contingency costs. Her report included an update on the progress underway regarding continued discussions and work to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governor's Office, DOE, and the Christina School District. Lastly, she informed the Board of several changes with respect to the DOE leadership team and explained that this was a part of their continued. She thanked Angeline Rivello, Michael Watson, and David Blowman for their admirable work and contributions to the Department's success in recent years.

Charter School Items

Denise Stouffer, Lead Education Associate for the Department of Education Charter School Office, presented an overview of each charter school being considered for renewal as well as the process and recommendations from the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC). Secretary Bunting then announced her decision for each proposed renewal and requested the assent of the Board regarding those renewal decisions.

The following actions were taken regarding charter renewals:

Academia Antonia Alonso – After a thorough review of the charter school’s performance, the CSAC recommended to the Secretary that the charter be renewed for a period of five years. Secretary Bunting agreed with this recommendation and asked the State Board to assent to her decision. Mrs. Bunting made a motion to assent to the renewal of the charter, and Mrs. Rutt seconded it. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the school was granted a five-year renewal.

Early College High School at DSU – After a thorough review of the charter school’s performance, the CSAC recommended to the Secretary that the charter be renewed for a period of five years. Secretary Bunting agreed with this recommendation and asked the State Board to assent to her decision. Dr. Terry Whittaker made a motion to assent to the renewal of the charter, and Mrs. Bunting seconded it. After a brief discussion regarding the application, the charter’s performance, and CSAC recommendations, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote, and the school was granted a five-year renewal. The Board commented on the successful partnership between the school and Delaware State University, noting the opportunity provided through this school addressed a need for many students and stating it hopes to see additional growth and performance as the school moves forward.

First State Montessori Academy – After a thorough review of the charter school’s performance, the CSAC recommended to the Secretary that the charter be renewed for a period of five years. Secretary Bunting agreed with this recommendation and asked the State Board to assent to her decision. Mrs. Sorenson made a motion to assent to the renewal of the charter, and Mrs. Rutt seconded it. After a brief discussion regarding the application, the charter’s performance, and CSAC recommendations, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the school was granted a five-year renewal. The Board commented on the successful performance of the school so far and stated that it looks forward to future reports on its continued success.

Sussex Academy – After a thorough review of the charter school’s performance, the CSAC recommended to the Secretary that the charter be renewed for a period of ten years, which is permitted under 14 Del. C. §514A for schools with a record for outstanding performance. It was noted that, if approved, this would be the first school to be granted this extended renewal term. Additionally, if approved, it was stated that a ten-year renewal includes a midpoint review of the annual performance and program evaluations that include academic, financial, and operations data. If the school’s level of performance at that point were deemed deficient for renewal standards, the approving authority could begin the formal review process. Secretary Bunting agreed with this recommendation and asked the State Board to assent to her decision. Mrs. Bunting made a motion to assent to the renewal of the charter, and Mrs. Sorenson seconded it.

Thomas A. Edison Charter School – After a thorough review of the charter school’s performance, the CSAC recommended to the Secretary that the charter be renewed for a period of five years with the following conditions:

1. Thomas Edison Charter School will have their current bylaws reviewed by an attorney to ensure that they are in compliance with Delaware Laws. The TECS Board shall submit their by-laws including any changes that result from this review to the Charter School Office no later than March 30, 2018. The Charter School Office will review and provide feedback as necessary no later

than April 30, 2018. The school shall have until June 29, 2018 to address the feedback of the Charter School Office and adopt any necessary revisions to their bylaws.

2. The Thomas Edison Charter School bylaws shall include a description of the process by which school stakeholders and community members can apply to become directors and serve on committees. The Board shall communicate with parents in September 2018 the process by which they are able to join the Board and serve on committees.

3. All Thomas Edison board members shall receive training by the Public Integrity Commission no later than March 30, 2018. The Board shall submit evidence of training this training to the Charter School Office by April 13, 2018.

4. The Thomas Edison Board will complete a comprehensive review of all Board and school policies and procedures and submit revisions, additions, and changes, as necessary to the Charter School Office.

5. All Thomas Edison board members shall have completed Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement¹ (DANA) training between September 1, 2017 and March 30, 2018. The Board shall submit evidence of training to the Charter School Office by April 13, 2018.

6. New members of the Board shall receive Public Integrity Commission (PIC) and Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) training within three months of joining the Board.

7. The TECS Board shall meet the governance measure and overall standard on the Organizational Performance Framework for the 2018-2019 school year.

8. The Thomas Edison Charter School Board President/Chair and one other member to be designated by the board shall meet monthly with a representative of the Charter School Office for progress reports on conditions and other governance issues that may arise until the Charter School Office deems that these meetings are no longer necessary.

9. The Thomas Edison Charter Board shall complete the Head of School evaluation by March 30, 2018.

Secretary Bunting agreed with this recommendation and asked the State Board to assent to her decision for a five-year renewal with conditions as outlined in the CSAC final report. Failure to meet the conditions in this renewal would result in the Department initiating the formal review process. Mrs. Sorenson made a motion to assent to the renewal of the charter with the stated conditions, and Mrs. Rutt seconded it. After discussion regarding the information included in the renewal record and the proposed conditions, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote, and the school was granted a five-year renewal with conditions. The Board expressed a desire to receive updates on the conditions and the continued monitoring of performance for the school.

In the Charter School Office monthly update, Mrs. Stouffer informed the Board that all Charter Performance Review reports were posted on the Department's website and all annual reports had been received from charter schools in accordance with the December 1st due date. The annual reports will be reviewed for completion and then posted on the Charter School Office website.

Presentations, Department Regulations, and Public Comment

The Board received a presentation on the performance results and survey data of the Delaware Performance Appraisal System II (DPAS-II) from the 2016-17 school year. Associate Secretary Angeline Rivello and members of the Educator Support Team at the Department reported the performance data, results of the annual survey, and recent changes to the system. They also provided information about the perception and views from educators who are using alternate evaluation systems. Additional information and resources from the presentation were provided on the State Board's website.

Dr. Susan Haberstroh and MaryAnn Mieczkowski presented Regulation 925: Children with Disabilities Subpart D, Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, and Individualized Education Programs. This regulation will amend 14 DE Admin. Code 925 Children with Disabilities Subpart D, Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, and Individualized Education Programs. The amendment to subsection 6.17 brings the regulation into compliance with applicable federal law. This regulation was presented for discussion only with action anticipated next month.

The Department's Chief Academic Officer, Michael Watson, presented Regulation 501: State Content Standards with the assistance of Department representatives who specialize in the areas of computer science and financial literacy joined him in this presentation. This regulation which is being amended to include Financial Literacy standards and Computer Science standards requires that the Financial Literacy standards be adopted for the 2018-19 school year. Any financial literacy curriculum used by the districts and charter schools would need to be aligned to these new standards on a timeline established by the Department. Further, the amendment requires that the Computer Science standards also be adopted for the 2018-19 school year. Any computer science curriculum used by the districts and charter schools would need to be aligned to these new standards on a timeline established by the Department. The Department is working with districts and charter schools to establish a timeline, which allows for the appropriate time for curriculum to be aligned and professional learning to occur. There are planned community engagement sessions in December for the Financial Literacy Standards; the community sessions on the Computer Science Standards were completed in November.

Regulation 501 was presented for discussion. Following a discussion by the Board on the details of the standards, their development, and the proposed implementation process, the Board also received clarification regarding the requirements that would need to be given to schools regarding the inclusion into instruction.

Two people signed up for public comment on regulations. Mike Maxmahov (BB Healthcare, and STEM advocate) and Bianca Bernal (President of Computer Science Teacher Administration). Mr. Maxmahov stressed the importance of computer science skills and cyber security. He also shared his drive to provide all children with the skills to be a productive citizen in its relation to Regulation 501. Ms. Bernal also supported Regulation 501, saying that computer science skills are a "profound gift", and that since STEM is engaging, it should be accessible to all students.

Professional Standards Board – Update, Regulatory Actions, and Public Comment

The Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, Chris Kenton, presented one regulation to the Board for discussion.

Regulation 1515: Hearing Rules and Procedures

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and consultation with the Department of Education, developed a new regulation, 14 DE Admin. Code 1515 Hearing Procedures and Rules. The regulation concerns the hearing procedures and rules for license denial actions under 14 Del.C. §1217 and license disciplinary actions under 14 Del.C. §1218. The proposed regulation was initially published on October 1, 2017. The Professional Standards Board received one written comment that subsection 3.1.2 does not seem to align with modern technology or to be the most efficient, non-burdensome form of communicating a hearing request. The Professional Standards Board believes that the forms of communicating hearing requests are those permitted by statute, so no changes were made in response to the comment. On November 2, 2017, the Professional Standards Board voted to republish the regulation with two substantive changes. They added a deadline for submitting a written request for additional time for a hearing to subsection 4.1.1.1 and added "stenographic" to subsection 4.5.2.

Following Regulation 1515's publication last month, the regulation will be open for public comment through January 2, 2018. The regulation's approval will be an action item before the Professional Standards Board at its January meeting; it would then proceed to the State Board for final action if approved.

Formal Public Comment

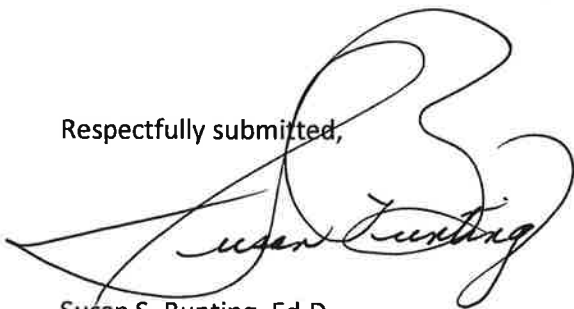
The Board received public comment from the John Marinucci, Executive Director of the Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA), updating the Board on the organization's recent activities. Mr. Marinucci provided a report to the Board detailing recent actions and work of DSBA. The Board also received public comment from Mr. Kevin Ohlandt, a parent, who commented on the Charter renewals, the DPAS presentation, and the recent bill being circulated regarding school board member removal.

Appeals and Reviews, Information Items, Adjournment

The Board received an update from its Deputy Attorney General regarding the receipt of the requests for student disciplinary appeals. Both of those appeals are currently in process and will likely come before the Board for action in February.

There were no additional informational items on the agenda. Therefore, a motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sorenson and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Bunting". The signature is written over the "Respectfully submitted," text and extends across the middle of the page.

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and
Secretary of Education